

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 04145 311324Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-02 PM-04 MC-02
ACDA-10 OMB-01 TRSE-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03
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O R 311235Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7676
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS ANKARA 4145

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, MARR, TU, US
SUBJ: MFA STATEMENT ON FINDLEY MOTION

1. THE TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTRY'S OFFICE OF INFORMATION ISSUED A STATEMENT MAY 27 CONCERNING U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION. THE STATEMENT EXPLAINED THE NORMAL PROCEDURE AND ANTICIPATED TIMETABLE FOR CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION. IT ALSO DEALT WITH THE UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORT BY CONGRESSMAN FINDLEY TO AMEND THE LEGISLATION AND FURTHER EASE THE RESTRICTIONS ON ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY.

2. TURKISH PRESS GAVE GENERALLY SKIMPY COVERAGE MAY 28 TO THE MFA STATEMENT. THE FOLLOWING IS AN EMBASSY UNCLASSIFIED

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TRANSLATION OF THE SIGNIFICANT PORTIONS OF THE STATEMENT AS THEY APPEARED IN THE PRESS.
BEGIN TEXT
"DURING THE DEBATES ON THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE BILL IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE, REPUBLICAN REPRESENTATIVE MR. FINDLEY PRESENTED AN AMENDMENT AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT TO SUSPEND THE EMBARGO AGAINST TURKEY. ALTHOUGH THE PROPOSAL

HAD PARTIAL SUPPORT, THE REPRESENTATIVES HOLDING OPPOSITE
VIEWS MANAGED TO HAVE IT REJECTED ON THE GROUND THAT THAT
GOVERNMENT HAD MADE NO SUCH REQUEST AND THAT THERE WAS
INSUFFICIENT TIME TO DEBATE THE AMENDMENT AT LENGTH.
"IT IS TROUBLING THAT THE AMENDMENTS CONCERNING
TURKEY WERE REJECTED IN THIS MANNER.
DESPITE SOME IMPROVEMENTS OBSERVED IN RECENT MONTHS
IN TURKISH-AMERICAN DEFENSE COOPERATION RELATIONS, THEY HAVE
NOT YET BEEN RAISED TO THE NECESSARY LEVEL. THE
CONTINUATION OF THIS SITUATION IS REGRETTABLE BOTH FROM THE
VIEWPOINT OF THE FUTURE OF TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS AND
ALSO BECAUSE OF ITS UNCONSTRUCTIVE EFFECTS ON THE JOINT
DEFENSE EFFORTS OF THE NATO ALLIANCE.
"VIEWED FROM THIS PERSPECTIVE, WE REGARD THE
REJECTION OF MR. FINDLEY'S AMENDMENT AS A MISSED
OPPORTUNITY, EVEN THOUGH A SMALL ONE, ON THE WAY TO
IMPROVING TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS." END TEXT.
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